

Message Text

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17

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NEA-09 IO-10 H-01 L-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

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P R 290658Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 186

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

BANGKOK FOR RED

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 4/29/75

TAGS: EAID, EFIN

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL
RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SUMMARY: ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSES \$300,000 EQUIVALENT
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) GRANT TO INTERNATIONAL RICE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IRRI), WHICH IS LOCATED IN
PHILIPPINES, TO FINANCE FOREX COST OF EQUIPPING NEW
LABORATORIES AND PROVIDING NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR
TRAINING COURSES TO INCLUDE LABORATORY AND AGRICULTURAL
MACHINERY. PROPOSED BANK TA WOULD SUPPORT IRRI IN
EXPANDING ITS RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR
SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT OF RICE CULTIVATION AND PRO-
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DUCTION IN ASIA. USADB RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE NAC

ACTION.

1. ADB DOC R7-75 DESCRIBING PROPOSED TA POUCHES
ADDRESSEES JAN 27. BOARD CONSIDERATION SCHEDULED
FEB 20.

2. ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSING \$300,000 TA GRANT TO
IRRI. PROCEEDS WILL FINANCE FOREX COST OF LABORATORY
AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT
OF IRRI'S PROPOSED EXPANSION OF RESEARCH AND AND TRAINING
FACILITIES. PROPOSED INVESTMENT PROGRAM HAS OBJECTIVE
OF INTENSIFYING AND FURTHER SYSTEMATIZING AND INTE-
GRATING RICE RESEARCH EFFORTS AND IMPROVING AND
ENLARGING IRRI'S TRAINING FACILITIES TO HELP SOLVE
ASIAN RICE PRODUCTION PROBLEMS.

3. RICE IS PRIMARY FOOD CROP OF ADB REGION, AND
PERSISTENT RICE SHORTAGES HAVE HINDERED ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF ASIAN COUNTRIES. SCOPE FOR EXPANSION
OF CULTIVATED LAND IS RATHER LIMITED IN MANY COUNTRIES.
THUS, INCREASES IN PER ACRE YIELDS ARE NEEDED TO SECURE
ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES FOR REGION'S GROWING POPULATION.
THIS REQUIRES SUSTAINED RESEARCH EFFORTS AT BOTH
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS.

4. IRRI, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1960, IS LOCATED IN
LOS BANOS, LAGUNA, ADJACENT TO COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
UNIVERSITY OF PHILIPPINES. IT CONDUCTS RICE RESEARCH
AND TRAINS ASIAN EXTENSION WORKERS, FARM MANAGERS
AND RESEARCHERS IN MODERN TECHNIQUES OF RICE PRO-
DUCTION. IRRI HAS CONTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLY TO
"GREEN REVOLUTION" BY DEVELOPING HIGH-YIELDING RICE
VARIETIES. OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT
OF NUMBER OF SMALL FARM MACHINES AND IMPLEMENTS WHICH
CAN BE MANUFACTURED LOCALLY, HELP FARMERS SPEED UP
FARM OPERATIONS AND ENABLE THEM TO ADOPT MULTIPLE
CROPPING.

5. SUPPORTED INITIALLY BY FORD AND ROCKEFELLER
FOUNDATIONS, IRRI'S MAIN DONORS IN 1973 INCLUDED
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USAID, OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION OF U.K.,
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER (CANADA),
GOVT OF JAPAN AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIA-
TION OF WORLD BANK GROUP. CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (CGIAR), OF WHICH
ADB IS MEMBER, EXAMINES RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND
FINANCIAL NEEDS OF IRRI AND ASSISTS IN SECURING
FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

6. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITIES IS FIRST EXPANSION TO BE UNDERTAKEN SINCE ORIGINAL BUILDINGS WERE COMPLETED IN 1962 AND EXISTING EXPERIMENTAL FIELDS WERE DEVELOPED. PROPOSAL INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT OF 150 HA. OF LAND, ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW LABORATORY FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TRAINING-CUM-CONFERENCE CENTER. NEW BUILDING AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT WILL MEET NEEDS FOR EXPANSION OF HIGH PRIORITY RESEARCH PROGRAMS ON UPLAND RICE, CROPPING SYSTEMS AND GENETIC EVALUATION AND UTILIZATION. OBJECTIVE IS TO INTENSIFY AND FURTHER SYSTEMATIZE AND INTEGRATE RICE RESEARCH EFFORTS AND IMPROVE AND ENLARGE INSTITUTE'S TRAINING FACILITIES.

7. TOTAL INVESTMENT REQUIRED IS ESTIMATED AT \$2,909,000, INCLUDING PROPOSED BANK CONTRIBUTION OF \$300,000. BALANCE OF FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS FINANCING OF IRRI'S OPERATING BUDGET IS BEING PROVIDED BY DONORS REPRESENTED ON CGIAR. PHILIPPINE GOVT IS MAKING AVAILABLE LAND FOR EXPANSION PROGRAM.

8. PROCUREMENT OF LABORATORY AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT, EXCEPT FOR MINOR ITEMS TO MATCH EXISTING EQUIPMENT, WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING PROCEDURES. AS CONSTRUCTION OF LABORATORY-TRAINING-CONFERENCE CENTER COMPLEX IS TO COMMENCE SHORTLY AND TO BE COMPLETED IN 18 MONTHS, BANK'S PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION IS NEEDED ASAP.

9. EXPANSION PROGRAM IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN IRRI'S HIGH RESEARCH STANDARDS AND CRUC PL FOR SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT OF RICE CULTIVATION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTION IN ASIA. IT WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT PAST AND FUTURE IRRIGATION PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY BANK. PROPOSED BANK COTARIBUTION FOR EQUIPMENT WOULD FINANCE DISCRETE ITEM AND WOULD NOT ENTAIL ANY CONTINUING COMMITMENT FOR ADDITION TO OR MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT. USADB SUPPORTS PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE NAC ACTION.
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